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| **Vacenti Update on Coronavirus - COVID-19 - Update no 10**  **Information as at 27th April, 2020**  Thank you very much to you, your family and loved ones, for your patience in cooperating with our current restrictions and also for reading, and passing on these rather lengthy emails. Hopefully, with the positive signs shown across the country you may not have to read many more.  **Influenza Vaccination Requirements**  As initially advised in our update No 6 (27th March) the Australian Government and Queensland Health require all visitors to aged care have an influenza vaccination by the 1st May, which is this Friday. This includes all resident’s family and friends. Extracts of that advice are:  *“Specifically, the requirements set out that individuals must not enter or remain on the premises of a residential aged care facility if the person does not have an up-to-date (i.e. 2020) vaccination against influenza, if such a vaccination is available to the person.”*  The current specific links relating to that advice are:  [Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Restrictions on entry into and visitors to aged care facilities](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/04/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-on-entry-into-and-visitors-to-aged-care-facilities_6.pdf) (16th April)  [Qld Chief Health Officer public health directions - Aged Care Direction](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/aged-care) (updated 17th April)  The only exception now allowed is where the vaccine is “unavailable” and the example cited “the vaccination is not available to a person with a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine”, i.e. in the case of anaphylaxis. Thank you to all those who have provided their current year vaccination status to our Admin staff. They are busy entering those details into our new electronic sign-in register so you shouldn’t have any sign-in issues this Friday.  If you have not provided your 2020 Influenza Vaccination certificate by Friday, then our electronic sign-in will will not allow you to sign-in. Acceptable records are anything that clearly has your name and date of flu vaccination. Guidance is also provided in the Government links above. Please see our Admin staff personally with your record, or email them with a scanned copy of the Vaccination Certificate, your email address and mobile phone number. We must see the actual record. Email addresses are:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Home** | **Admin Email address** | | Portofino Hamilton | [Admin.PH@vacenti.com.au](mailto:Admin.PH@vacenti.com.au) | | Casa D'amore | [Admin.CD@vacenti.com.au](mailto:Admin.CD@vacenti.com.au) | | Marebello | [Admin.MB@vacenti.com.au](mailto:Admin.MB@vacenti.com.au) | | Lorocco | [Admin.LO@vacenti.com.au](mailto:Admin.LO@vacenti.com.au) | | Esida and Esida Lodge | [Admin.ES@vacenti.com.au](mailto:Admin.ES@vacenti.com.au) |   We have received a number of questions and comments about influenza vaccination requirements by 1st May. I would like to cover three primary scenarios.  **1)     I get an allergic reaction to the flu vaccine and can’t have it**  Under the Qld Chief Health Officer declarations, you do not have to have the influenza vaccination if it is “unavailable” to you i.e. you get a medical contraindication or reaction to it. Please provide a GP’s certificate or record that you cannot have the flu vaccine and we will enter that into our records. You will be allowed to visit your loved one but there may be ongoing visiting restrictions for you such as short stay, not in communal areas, etc. even when the current visiting restrictions are lifted.  **2)     I want to get the flu vaccine but there is no stock at my GP or pharmacy, can I still enter?**  Vacenti is fully aware of the current shortages in supply of the influenza vaccine to the general community. If you cannot get a flu vaccination by this Friday, 1st May, we ask you:  a)      strongly consider not visiting until you get one;  b)     continue to actively look for other options such as other GPs or pharmacies as much as you are able, or feel comfortable in doing so.  Vacenti will allow visits to all families and visitors who are actively trying to get a flu vaccination, but cannot get access to one, to provide comfort and support on a week-by-week basis. You will be asked to sign a form stating you cannot get access to the vaccine but are trying to. That approval will be valid for one week only, Monday to Monday.  Vacenti will continue to monitor the availability of vaccine stock to the community. Once we are satisfied that 2020 influenza vaccination stock is readily available to the community, the weekly approval process will cease and access will be denied.  3)     **I am able to get vaccinated but choose not to**.  Under the current directives there is no provision for persons choosing not to be vaccinated when they are medically capable of receiving one i.e. conscientious objection. Our sign-in process will not allow entry.  This is Government policy, not Vacenti’s, so please do not ask our Admin staff for dispensation nor vent any views on them. If the Government/s position change, or they provide further clarification, then we will advise that outcome, however we suggest you do not wait. If you cannot, or choose not to register your vaccination status then, by all means, please continue to phone in or make use of our Telehealth services.  **Visiting Restrictions**  I am sure everyone was happy to hear the slight easing of some COVID-19 restrictions by the Qld Chief Health Officer yesterday. Please note, these changes do not apply to residential aged care in Queensland. The current visiting restrictions made by the Qld Chief Health Officer mentioned above, remain in place, specifically:    **Vacenti will be restricting visitor access during business hours only for all facilities (Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm).**    **According to Government requirements, a resident may only have 1 care and support visit per day.**    **The care and support visit is no longer than 2 hours.**  Vacenti has also carefully considered the statements made by the Prime Minister and Chief Medical Officer last Friday regarding the lack of access by families to residents.  As you are aware, quite a number of aged care service providers went into complete lock down and no visitations were allowed. At that time, and as previously advised, Vacenti tried to balance the clinical risk of a COVID-19 infection in one of our homes against the risks to residents that go with isolation. It was for that reason that our sites remain open for visits all beit on a restricted “business hours” basis.  We have decided to leave the current visiting restrictions in place for the next couple of weeks and wait to see if there is any “second wave” emanating from the current easing of community restrictions. When you look at the situation in the aged care homes in Sydney, we are sure you agree that our taking a very precautionary approach is warranted.  **Mother’s Day Sunday 10th May**  All Vacenti homes will be open for visits on Mother’s Day, Sunday 10th May, from 10:00am to 2:00pm.  **Taking residents off site**  Under the current Qld Health requirements:  *“The operator of a residential aged care facility in the State of Queensland must not permit a resident, excluding an end of life resident, to leave the facility except to receive or access health care or in the case of emergency.”*  The government is taking serious action in trying to limit contact between residents and the outside world. We ask you respect this requirement at least for the next couple of weeks.  We would also like you to consider downloading the Commonwealth’s Government’s COVID Safe App. We believe the risk to privacy is far outweighed by the contact tracing benefits which may lead to an earlier lifting of restrictions on your loved ones.  Vacenti will continue to update you as usual. Stay safe, remember your social distancing with the easing of restrictions.  Again, thank you all. | |
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Yours sincerely,

**Brian Sharp**

***Manager – Information & Compliance***



***Residential Aged Care & Premium Senior Living***